AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Original) A manufacturing apparatus of a porous glass base material for depositing glass particles produced by subjecting a material gas to flame hydrolysis, onto a starting member placed vertically, wherein a plurality of gas inlets are provided in one or more lateral walls of a process chamber including a burner for the deposition therein, in upper portions of the lateral walls and along a ceiling of the process chamber.

2. (Original) The manufacturing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the plurality of gas inlets are provided in lateral walls that oppose each other with a porous glass base material being positioned therebetween.

3. (Original) The manufacturing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein slit-like gas inlets are provided in the process chamber, along left and right edges of a lateral wall on which the burner is provided.

4. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing apparatus according to ~~one of Claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein an exhaust outlet is provided in a lateral wall that opposes the lateral wall on which the burner is provided.

5. (Original) The manufacturing apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein a width of the lateral wall in which the exhaust outlet is provided is smaller than a width of a lateral wall in which a gas inlet is provided.

6. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing apparatus according to ~~one of Claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 4~~, wherein one of the gas inlets is provided in the lateral wall in which the exhaust outlet is provided, and a distance between a lowest part of the gas inlet and a highest part of the exhaust outlet is 30 mm or more.

7. (Currently Amended) The manufacturing apparatus according to ~~one of Claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 6~~, wherein the ceiling and lateral walls of the process chamber along which a gas supplied from the gas inlets flows are formed by flat surfaces.

8. (New) The manufacturing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein an exhaust outlet is provided in a lateral wall that opposes the lateral wall on which the burner is provided.

9. (New) The manufacturing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein an exhaust outlet is provided in a lateral wall that opposes the lateral wall on which the burner is provided.

10. (New) The manufacturing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein one of the gas inlets is provided in the lateral wall in which the exhaust outlet is provided, and a distance between a lowest part of the gas inlet and a highest part of the exhaust outlet is 30 mm or more.

11. (New) The manufacturing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein one of the gas inlets is provided in the lateral wall in which the exhaust outlet is provided, and a distance between a lowest part of the gas inlet and a highest part of the exhaust outlet is 30 mm or more.

12. (New) The manufacturing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein one of the gas inlets is provided in the lateral wall in which the exhaust outlet is provided, and a distance between a lowest part of the gas inlet and a highest part of the exhaust outlet is 30 mm or more.

13. (New) The manufacturing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the ceiling and lateral walls of the process chamber along which a gas supplied from the gas inlets flows are formed by flat surfaces.

14. (New) The manufacturing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the ceiling and lateral walls of the process chamber along which a gas supplied from the gas inlets flows are formed by flat surfaces.

15. (New) The manufacturing apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the ceiling and lateral walls of the process chamber along which a gas supplied from the gas inlets flows are formed by flat surfaces.

16. (New) The manufacturing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the ceiling and lateral walls of the process chamber along which a gas supplied from the gas inlets flows are formed by flat surfaces.

17. (New) The manufacturing apparatus according to claim 6, wherein the ceiling and lateral walls of the process chamber along which a gas supplied from the gas inlets flows are formed by flat surfaces.